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MAJOR PRODUCT					

By TISHA ZAKHIDOV, President of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences

Encircled by lofty mountain ranges the picturesque Ferghana Valley belongs at once to three Soviet republics the Uzbek, the Tajik, and the Kirghiz.

This valley is rightly considered one of the richest districts of Soviet Central Asia, and is a huge base for the development of cotton, silk, vine and fruit-growing.

The many rivers that speed down the sides of the mountains spread fan-like as they reach the bottom of the valley. Irrigation canals bring their waters to the fields, forming an oasis of irrigated farming. But in the central parts of the valley there is still

much land that bears no crops. And it is to bring this land within the sphere of cultivation that a new irrigation system is being established.

The valley lies half-smothered in the verdure of cotton-plant, mulberry-trees, orchards and vineyards. But the valley's wealth is not confined to fruits of the soil. Ferghana is mostly proud of its highly developed industry, its various mineral deposits, and its wealth of hydro-power. Big industrial towns, modernized collective-farm settlements, and the buildings of machine and tractor stations, are now an integral part of the Ferghana landscape.

Large-scale industry has made great progress here. It need only be mentioned that under Soviet rule the production of electricity has increased 40-fold, oil 55-fold, and coal 12-fold. New industries have been set up, including the chemical, cement, engineering, cotton, and silk-weaving industries.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party and with the assistance of the great Russian nation the people of Ferghana have transformed the entire area. New irrigation systems have been built and old ones reconstructed. The water famine that had existed for ages is now a thing of the past. More than ninety percent of cotton sowing and cultivation has been mechanized, and cotton output has increased by 150 percent as against 1913.

Other branches of Ferghana's economy have also made remarkable strides ahead.

On instructions from the Government of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, the Republic's Academy of Sciences has made an extensive study of Ferghana's resources to

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furnish the basis for palnning the further development of Ferghana's productive possibiliteis in he valley and proposed the development of an additional 593,000 acrea of land lying cheifly in Central Ferghana. The Uzbek collective farmers are already tackling this task.

The decisions of the September Pen num of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union provide for a considerable increase in yields and the creation of new varieties of cotton, including early ripeners. The government of the republic has worked out a series of measures which will make it possible within the next few years to multiply the output of Ferghana cotton by 150 per cent, and of silk worm cocoons by 100 to 200 per cent. The amount of fruit picked in the Ferghana Valley can be raised 500 to 700 per cent within the next 3 or 4 five-year plan periods.

The people of the Ferghana Valley are contributing their full share towards the further economic advancement of the Socialist Motherland.